

NEWS RELEASE



Press Office

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ATTENTION: EDITORS

November 23, 2010

THE JOHNNY RODGERS BAND TO PERFORM IN SABAH *'Masters of Music' to get Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan swinging*



The U.S. Embassy, Society for Performing Arts Kota Kinabalu (SPArKS), Sabah Tourism Board and the Sandakan Municipal Council are proud to present the Johnny Rodgers Band, a talented group of American musicians, to Malaysia. Brought to you by the “2010 Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad,” a cultural outreach program of the U.S. Department of State administered by Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC), The Johnny Rodgers Band will perform in Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan from November 27-29, 2010.

The Johnny Rodgers Band was formed in New York City in 2003. Its mission is to bring “musical depth to new, original songs.” Music from the Johnny Rodgers Band provides a guided tour of American pop, from the piano-driven energy of rock and roll, to the supreme sophistication of jazz. This ensemble cultivates connections with audiences through performances, discussions, demonstrations, and musical exchange.

The band has performed and recorded with artists such as Liza Minnelli, Michael Feinstein, Randy Brecker, and Tom Harrell, among others. The ensemble has been featured on recordings celebrating such greats as Maury Yeston and Jule Styne. The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) selected The Johnny Rodgers Band to interpret and perform

the music of Billy Joel in a command performance for the “Piano Man” himself in The Allen Room at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

The schedule of performances by The Johnny Rodgers Band is as follows:

Saturday, November 27 - Kota Kinabalu

7.30 pm to 9.30 pm: Performance at Universiti Malaysia Sabah Recital Hall

Sunday, November 28 - Kota Kinabalu

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm: Performance at One Borneo Mall

Monday, November 29 - Sandakan

7.30 pm to 9.30 pm: Performance at Sandakan Municipal Council Hall

NOTE TO EDITOR:

You are invited to send a representative for coverage of the performances. Please call Mr. Chew Wing Foong for additional information: 012 3933934.

We would also request that you kindly publish information about the Johnny Rodgers Band in your Diary of Events. Thank you.

Background Information

The “2010 Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad” is a cultural program of the U.S. Department of State administered by Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC), New York. The mission of The Rhythm Road is to share America’s unique contribution to the world of music and to promote cross-cultural understanding and exchange among nations worldwide. Since 2005, JALC and the U.S. Department of State have produced ten tours each year that represent American music to overseas audiences.

The artists on *The Rhythm Road* will travel in the Spring and Fall of 2010, performing in countries that are not regularly visited by American musicians. Tour activities include public concerts, master classes, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, jam sessions, media outreach, and collaborations with local musicians.

http://www.jazzatlincolncenter.org/TheRoad/bands/2010/johnny_rodgers.asp

THE JOHNNY RODGERS BAND



Johnny Rodgers Band (New York, NY) was formed in New York City in 2003 and its mission is to bring musical depth to new, original songs. They are masters of an array of styles ranging from pop to jazz to classic rock. Music from the Johnny Rodgers Band provides a guided tour of Americana pop, from the piano-driven energy of rock and roll, to the supreme sophistication of jazz. This ensemble cultivates connections with audiences through performances, discussions, demonstrations, and exchange. The Johnny Rodgers Band has performed and recorded with artists such as Liza Minnelli, Michael Feinstein, Randy Brecker, and Tom Harrell, among others. This ensemble has been featured on recordings that celebrate Maury Yeston and Jule Styne. The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) selected The Johnny Rodgers Band to interpret and perform the music of Billy Joel in a command performance for the “Piano Man” himself in The Allen Room at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

JOHNNY RODGERS (PIANO AND VOCALS) is an award-winning singer-songwriter-pianist, and a favorite on the East Coast and Florida scenes. Rodgers creates effervescent and romantic pop ballads, Taylor-laced melodies and sultry jazz stirred with piano-driven rock. *Billboard* magazine and ASCAP Foundation have given awards to Rodgers for his original compositions. He has toured the United States and internationally as pianist and guest artist with Liza Minnelli, with whom he made his Broadway debut in 2008 in the Tony Award-winning show *Liza’s at the Palace*. Rodgers grew up in Miami, Florida, attended the University of Miami jazz program, and graduated from Western Michigan University in jazz studies, piano, and voice. He now resides in New York City.

BRIAN GLASSMAN (BASS AND PERCUSSION) is known as one of the best upright and electric bassists in New York. While his style includes classical, rock, Latin, R&B, and cabaret, Glassman is perhaps best-known for his work in jazz and Jewish music styles, such as klezmer. Glassman has performed, toured, and recorded with jazz greats such as Paquito D’Rivera, John

and Bucky Pizzarelli, and Lionel Hampton. When he is not touring internationally or recording, Glassman is an instructor of jazz bass at Princeton University. Glassman received a Bachelor of Arts in music from Rutgers University, and a Master of Arts in music education from City University of New York.

DANNY MALLON (DRUMS, PERCUSSION, VOCALS), a native New Yorker, performs American roots music inspired by the classic songwriters of the 1960s and 1970s, as combined with the musical strains of New York's cultural melting pot. Mallon has been featured on numerous recordings, on radio, television, and in film, as well as with luminaries such as Randy Brecker, Gene Bertoncini, and Phoebe Snow. Mallon's festival appearances include Spoleto USA and Berkeley Early Music Festival. In addition to playing drums, Mallon has studied and played Middle Eastern percussion since college. Mallon holds both bachelor's and master's degrees of music in classical orchestral percussion from the Mannes College of Music, where he has been a faculty member since 1991.

JOE RAVO (GUITAR), a New York native, is a multi-faceted guitarist and composer who has performed with jazz greats such as Dave Brubeck, Stanley Turrentine, and Gerry Mulligan. He has recorded alongside David "Fathead" Newman, Liza Minnelli, Randy Brecker, and Tom Harrell, and performed in orchestras for Broadway hits such as *A Chorus Line*, *42nd Street*, *Secret Garden*, *City of Angels*, and *Dancin'*. With guitar techniques incorporating a diverse set of traditions, Ravo's style embodies the multi-cultural flavor teeming throughout New York City. Ravo studied guitar with Alexander Bellow and he has been on the faculty of Mannes College of Music since 1978.